

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington D C 20505

Executive Registry
86- 2028/1

27 May 1986

Dean Graham Allison
John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Graham:

I very much appreciate your invitation to the summer conference on the future of nuclear deterrence. Both the substance of the conference and its location make it sound especially attractive. I am, therefore, especially sorry that I will be unable to attend inasmuch as I will be out of the country at the time.

Again, I am honored to be invited and very much regret my schedule doesn't permit my attending.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Gates

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Executive Registry
86- 2028X

May 14, 1986

Dr. Robert Gates
Dept. Director for Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bob:

I am writing on behalf of Harvard's Project on Avoiding Nuclear War, and my co-directors Al Carnesale and Joe Nye, to invite you to our summer conference on the future of nuclear deterrence. As you know, over the past year we have been trying to take seriously the challenge posed by the final recommendation of Hawks, Doves, and Owls; namely, reduce reliance on nuclear deterrence over the long term. Is it reasonable to count on nuclear deterrence to assure human survival for another hundred years? If not, then is it conceivable that we could move beyond "mutual assured destruction" in the U.S.-Soviet relationship?

Many question whether this goal is achievable. Some of us even wonder, at least some of the time, whether it would be desirable. But as one contemplates the potential consequences of a catastrophic breakdown of MAD, the impetus to think speculatively about the longer-run future of nuclear weapons and their role in U.S.-Soviet relations is powerful. Our efforts to explore this topic began with three paths: the technological, the sociological, and the political. Over time, we have concluded that these are essentially three dimensions of any realistic path that could lead over the next fifty years to a world that could legitimately be characterized as "beyond mutual assured destruction."

Over the past six months here in Cambridge we have attempted to explore each of these dimensions, though with limited success. On the basis of our initial explorations, we have come to believe that the most important dimension of any path to the future is the political relationship between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

This summer's ANW Conference will therefore focus primarily on the U.S.-Soviet relationship. Specifically we want to examine the factors that affect the current U.S.-Soviet hostility, and the prospects for significant change over the next decades.

We would like you to participate in the conference. It will begin on Sunday, July 6th and conclude on Friday, July 11th. We will be meeting by the Grand Tetons in Jackson Hole, Wyoming (a conference site equal in scenery, recreational, and cultural activities to Aspen, Colorado and equally accessible.) In addition to your own transportation, food, and lodging at the conference, we would be pleased to cover the costs of lodging as well.

We will be firming up the list of participants in the next three weeks. Thus we need to hear from you at your earliest convenience about whether you will be able to attend (since, if you will not, we will invite someone else in your place).

If you have any questions about the conference, please feel free to call me, Al, or Joe or one of the project coordinators, Jim Blight or Bob Beschel. Jim's and Bob's numbers are (617)495-8131 and (617)495-8132 respectively.

I hope that you will join us out West this summer.

Yours sincerely,



Graham Allison

GA:jp